## Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-03 /010 W

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R 251220Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7433

**UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 0351** 

FOR AF/EX

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: OGEN, AFSP

SUBJ: SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

REF: STATE "#7821 #

- 1. POST REALIZES THAT REFTEL SOUGHT PROMPT RESPONSE,
  AND APOLOGIZES FOR DELAY. HOWEVER, WE HAVE JUST COME
  UP WITH WHAT WE BELIEVE WOULD BE EXCELLENT AND USEFUL
  PROGRAM FOR SUMMER INTERN, AND SUBMIT IT IN HOPE THAT IT MAY NOT BE
  TOOLATE TO FIND QUALIFIED CANDIDATE.
- 2. PRINCIPAL INTERST OF USG IN GABON IS ECONOMIC/ COMMERCIAL, BUT EMBASSY HAS ONLY ONE ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER WHO ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR CONSULAR WORK. THUS, HE SIMPLY DOES NOT HAVE TIME TO MAKE EXTENSIVE CALLS AND TRY TO SELL AMERICAN PRODUCTS. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY VALUABLE TO POST TO HAVE INTERN FOR FEW MONTHS WHO COULD MAKE MARKETING SURVEY. INTERN WOULD CALL ON LOCAL BUSINESSMEN, FIND OUT WHAT THEIR PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF PRODUCTS ARE, DETERMINE IF THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN AMERICAN SUPPLIES, EXPLAIN HOW US EMBASSY CAN PUT THEM IN TOUCH WITH FIRMS THROUGH TOPS PROGRAM, AND FINALLY COMPLETE A REPORT ON AREAS MOST PROMISING FOR INCREMENTAL US SALES. BELIEVE THIS ESPECIALLY VALUABLE AT THIS TIME SINCE GABON LIKE REST OF UDEAC HAS JUST REMOVED REVERSE PREFERENCES AND SAME TARIFFS NOW APPLY TO AMERICAN GOODS AS ON GOODS COMING FROM EEC. AND AMERICAN PRODUCTS UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE THUS MORE COMPETITIVE.

3. FRENCH LANGUAGE CAPABILITY ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR CANDIDATE. IDEAL CANDIDATE WOULD HAVE EITHER MARKETING, GENERAL BUSINESS, OR ECONOMIC BACKGROUND, OR COMMERCIAL EXPERIENCE, BUT SOMEONE WITHOUT THIS BACKGROUND AND WITH FRENCH AND INTEREST IN SUBJECT WOULD BE POSSIBLE WHEREAS SOMEONE WITH RIGHT BACKGROUND BUT NO FRENCH WOULD NOT. CANDIDATE SHOULD BE EITHER SINGLE OR MARRIED WITHOUT CHILDREN AS HE WILL BE HOUSED IN FAIRLY SMALL EMBASSY TRANSIENT APARTMENT.

4. EMBASSY THANKS AF/EX FOR ITS ASSISTANCE.STEIGMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: #REFTEL NOT IDENTIFIED

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

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Review Authority: castelsl

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